



**PRESIDENT'S
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Minutes

September 21, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm

Virtual Meeting

- Introductions (5 minutes)
- Introduce Zahra Al-Saloom – new PSC Graduate Intern (5 minutes)
 - New graduate intern for our commission. Welcome Zahra!
- Princeton Review Green Honor Roll (10 minutes)
 - CSU made the list again this year and we have been on the list for over 7 years for the Princeton review.
 - Update: Sierra Club Cool Schools list came out Monday and we have also made their ranking again this year (#7).
- Institutional Sponsorship of AASHE Conference – keynote speaker is Ibram X. Kendi, author of How to Be an Antiracist (10 minutes)
 - AASHE is offering institutional sponsorships this year for \$4,500 dollars that would allow all of CSU to attend the virtual conference.
 - Up to 20 sessions per hour and several keynote speakers
 - We have \$1,000 – 1,500 from PSC budget and \$1,500 from folks on the commission who have already budgeted to purchase an individual registration. Please let us know if anyone else/individual memberships that could be applied to the sponsorship.
 - <https://www.aashe.org/conference/schedule-at-a-glance/>
 - The conference will be from October 20th -22nd
 - Update: Jocelyn Hittle from the Systems Office has generously offered to help fund and we have met the goal for institutional sponsorship. Kirstie and Tim will work on getting CSU registered and we will send out the session info as soon as this is complete. Thanks Jocelyn!
- Launch of Sustainability Curriculum Innovation Grants – Tony (10 minutes)
 - Officially launched the grant process, which is a partnership between SoGES and PSC. Call for proposals was sent out this past week.
 - All the dollars will need to be spent before the end of FY21 (June 30, 2021). Aleta/SoGES would love your assistance getting the word out. This opportunity is a small grant to faculty to integrate sustainability into new or existing courses. There is opportunity to fund a couple of proposals. The courses don't have to be sustainability focused but could introduce a tie. Any faculty/staff in any area/department/college can apply.
 - Would welcome anyone in the review process or who is an education committee member. Looking for representation if you are involved with the colleges.
 - If the funding is applied to improve or create a course, contributions will go to the toolbox. Toolbox will be available to anyone on campus for reference.
 - RFP language is open/moldable, so people can propose to the committee what they are thinking since this is a new process. We are encouraging them to be creative.

- <https://sustainability.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2021-Sustainability-Curriculum-Innovation-Grants.pdf>
- CSU Life article will be sent out next week.
- This grant is an innovative way to integrate the university sustainability learning outcome!
- October 15th is deadline to apply. Awardees announced by early to mid-November.

- Framework for PSC Sustainability Fund (20 minutes)
 - \$25,000 dollars available for grassroots sustainability project ideas. PSC can endorse and help fund these projects. In the future, it would be ideal if it could be combined with other CSU funding sources.
 - What should be our timeline to launch the fund? October is campus sustainability month. Proposals in person? Submit in writing? Sub-committee? What is the criteria?
 - Ideas shared:
 - i. Carol – smaller group that can create an outline/criteria and review proposals.
 - ii. Julie – include students and faculty from other colleges as well.
 - iii. Brian – sporadic timing already so maybe have a longer time available. VPR moved to quarterly instead of ongoing and it has been more consistent and fair of a process.
 - iv. Stacey – smaller group that first frames the criteria (funding max/tangible things/matching/one-time/ongoing). Green.colostate.edu could host the proposal form. We could invite top few for in-person presentation.
 - v. SSC sees the value in a presentation component for the student perspective. Written in addition to the presentation is a good idea.
 - vi. Students should have a faculty staff mentor/ sponsor the project/idea as a requirement.
 - vii. Tim - These funds cannot be carried over to the next year. The only exception is if it is awarded to a department, they potentially could carry over. It can't be a donation it has to directly benefit the University.
 - viii. May be better to have an early submission since funds need to be utilized within the year.
 - ix. Erika- existing HDS fund supports pilots/start a new project rather than annual or ongoing funding.
 - Small working group will be formed to work on next steps. Please let us know if you would like to be involved with the process.

- Solar RFP (10 minutes)
 - Selection process to bring more solar on process was completed with Namaste solar chosen as the vendor candidate. This was announced last week, and they will be involved in the next few years. 37 projects proposed/wished. 16-20 sites instead are now the target but will be optimizing those in the coming weeks with the vendor. There is no money on the table from CSU, operated/paid for by a third party. The agreement is that all the renewable electricity produced will be purchased by CSU after installation. Prices are good to be locked in for the next 20 years. RECs are going to be able to be claimed. We are hoping to double the amount of solar on campus, possibly around 8-9 megawatts. This is a great opportunity to have more visual solar on campus. We will come back to PSC with more information and let everyone know what packages are being sold. Looking to make ARDEC a 100% renewable energy campus.
 - Diversity, equity, and inclusion question was included to all the vendors for what they do for it in their businesses.
 - Mary shared that student engagement was also part of the RFP process and Namaste will be including students in the process as it moves forward.

- Member updates (20 minutes)
 - Carol – Water conservation project update, Horsetooth treatment plant needs repair and has needed it for years. Water restrictions will go into effect October 1. They will pull from the Poudre instead of

Horsetooth during the repairs. CSU uses untreated water so we are able to continue watering. Tonie – will CSU stop watering too to be an advocate? CSU utilizes well water that isn't treated, however, October usually is a period that watering is stopped for the season. PR piece on well/treated water will be communicated. Signage will be posted around campus.

- Zahra - I'm a subcommittee on Environmental Justice for Diverse FoCo, a community committee. If anyone is interested, you can email me at zsloom@colostate.edu or visit diversefoco.com to participate!
- Tonie – invited President McConnell to an upcoming meeting and will invite new Provost, Mary Pedersen, and VP of University Communications, Yolanda Bevill, as well. Will keep us up to date on that meeting when it is scheduled.
- Anthony Appleton – International institute for sustainable laboratories conference will be free to the CSU community. This opportunity was sent out through our PSC listserv.
- Carol – ground source heat pump will be heating the buildings soon. This project is coming to completion. Stay tuned for annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory report.
- Stacey – Shout out to Anthony about this opportunity for this conference. Smaller solar project on the LSC roof through funding by ASCSU is in the works. Should start in the next couple of weeks if it hasn't already. This will be the first solar array on-campus funded by students. Green Labs project (Shut the Sash) is a good example that could have gone through our new fund. Stickers to remind users to shut the sash for energy savings and safety have been created and we will start advertising the opportunity soon.
- Mary – Move-in took place over 5 days, our waste numbers were high considering our population decreased. We are currently struggling with the waste piece due to dining utilizing all compostable materials with 100% dining meals required to be to-go. Eco Leaders are doing well and are still able to engage and educate the students.
- Tonie – COVID numbers are looking low and compliance rate has been above 90% for testing. Waste water testing is working, and we have been able to find asymptomatic cases. We have made it into the 5th week of class! Hopefully it continues to go well.
- Erika Benti – We were able to continue Rams Ride Right campaign looking for students riding bikes/scooters/skateboards on riding correctly and following the road rules. Campaign is “touchless,” Ram Cash is being loaded onto their RamCards instead. Traffic on-campus is down, but glad to still have the opportunity to encourage safe riding.
- Sophia Shepp – Environmental Affairs is working on transition on leadership/next administration. Trying to send out garden kits to students (worked on over the summer). Had to submit a RFP and will be able to send out these kits soon.
- Sara Van Hatten - will be graduating in December so there will be a turnover on positions soon in SSC. Jobs will be posted hopefully by next month. Please send any recommendations her way. Working with the Zero Waste Team to help educate students on sorting waste properly.